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Labour Market Information Monthly

October 2010 Edition

Issue 10 Volume 7

Employment patterns of postsecondary students

Employment patterns for postsecondary students who work during the school year changed significantly during the recent economic downturn.

During the 2009/2010 school year, about 542,000 postsecondary students aged 15 to 24 held jobs. This represented an employment rate of 45%, down from 48% in 2007/2008, just before the economic downturn. Nevertheless, these rates were well above those during the 1970s when 25% of students were employed.

Between 2007/2008 and 2009/2010, employment among full-time CEGEP, community college and university students declined by 30,000. Of those who were employed during the school year, 9 out of 10 worked part time.

Although students worked one hour less per week after the downturn, hourly wages increased from $10.75 to $11.80. As a result, average earnings for employed students held their ground at $6,300 during the 2009/2010 school year.

This Month

- Employment patterns of post-secondary students
- Key Labour Force Statistics
- The Industry Report

Women were more likely than men to pursue postsecondary schooling in 2009/2010, representing 56% of the postsecondary student population. About 50% of women had a job while at school compared with 40% of men.

Students aged 20 to 24 were also more likely to work while attending school than those aged 15 to 19 (47% versus 43%), as were the Canadian-born (49%) compared with immigrant students (32%).

Almost all students employed during the 2009/2010 school year worked in the service sector (96%), with 36% in retail trade and 18% in food services. The 200,000 students working in retail trade represented 10% of all jobs in that industry.

The article "Employment patterns of postsecondary students" also examined student employment during the summer of 2009. It found that this was the worst labour market for postsecondary students aged 20 to 24 since the recession years of 1982 and 1993.

There was some improvement during the summer of 2010. Although employed students earned roughly $7,000 during the summers of both 2008 and 2009, there were 40,000 fewer students with jobs.
Between the summers of 2008 and 2009, the employment rate for students aged 20 to 24 fell from 70% to 63%. At the same time, the unemployment rate for this group rose from 9% to 14%, while the percentage with a full-time job declined from 61% to 57%.

In 2010, the employment and unemployment rates for students aged 20 to 24 stood at 66% and 8%, while 52% of these students had a full-time job.

* Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, September 29, 2010.

Produced by the Labour Market Analysis Branch (LMAB) of the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training & Labour
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Note: This study used data from the Labour Force Survey to examine long-term trends in employment during the school year among young people aged 15 to 24 enrolled full time in community college, CEGEPs or university, with particular focus on the recent downturn and nascent recovery. It also profiles students who had a job in the 2009/2010 school year.

The article "Employment patterns of postsecondary students" is available in the September 2010 online edition of Perspectives on Labour and Income, Vol. 11, no. 9 (75-001-X, free). From the Key Resource module of the Statistics Canada website, choose Publications.

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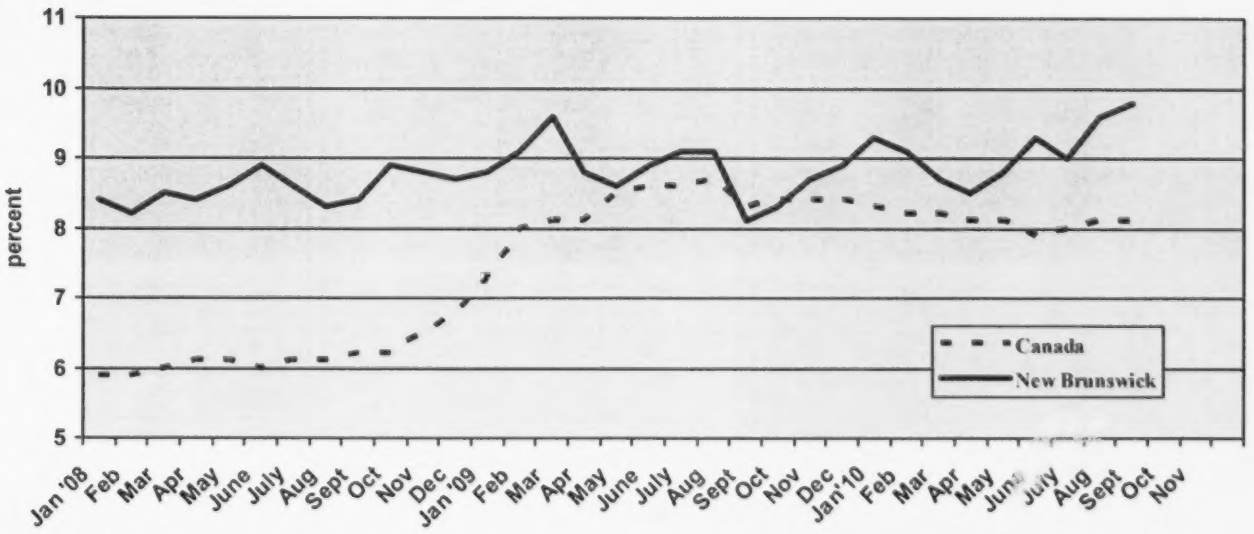
KEY LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK (Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey)

New Brunswick	YTD	September '10	August '10	September 09
Labour Force	401,200	**401,700**	403,400	400,500
Employed	364,700	**362,300**	364,800	367,900
Unemployed	36,600	**39,400**	38,600	32,600
Unemployment Rate	9.1%	**9.8%**	9.6%	8.1%
Participation Rate	64.3%	**64.2%**	64.5%	64.4%
Employment Rate	58.4%	**57.9%**	58.3%	59.1%

CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK

In September, Canada's unemployment rate was 8.1%, unchanged over last month but 0.2 of a percentage point lower than the same time last year. New Brunswick's rate of 9.8% was 0.2 of a percentage point higher than last month and 1.7 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year, when it stood at 8.1%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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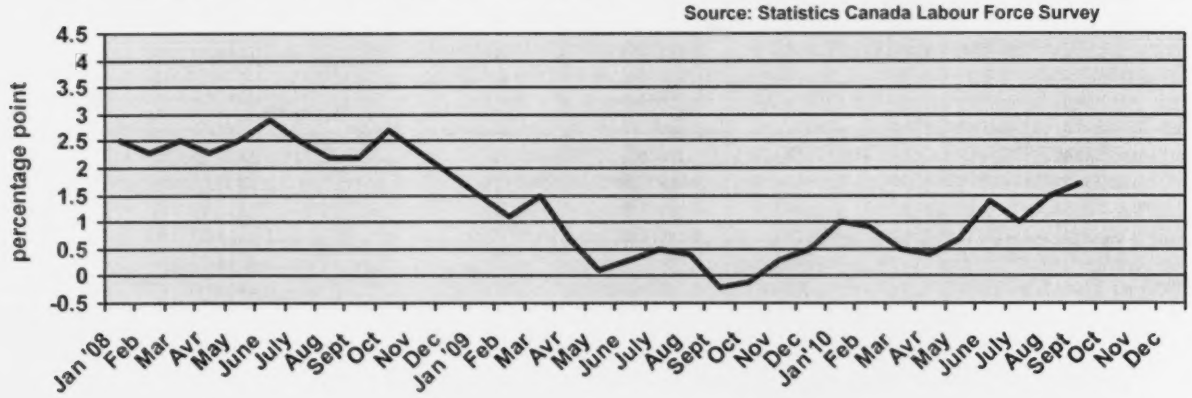
CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK (continued)

The gap between the national and provincial rates was 1.7 of a percentage point in September.

DIFFERENCE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA

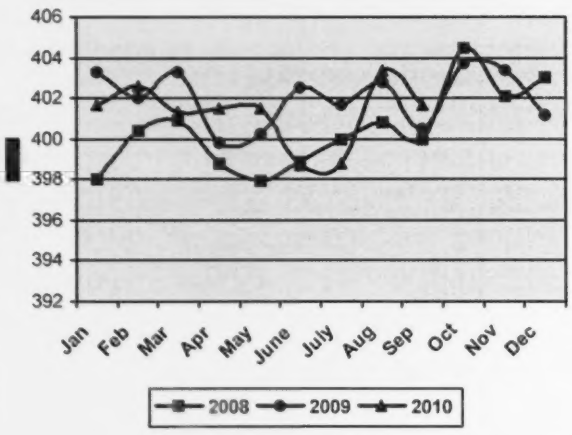
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



THE LABOUR FORCE

New Brunswick's labour force stood at 401,700 in September. This was a decrease of 1,700 over last month, but an increase of 1,200 over the same time last year.

THE SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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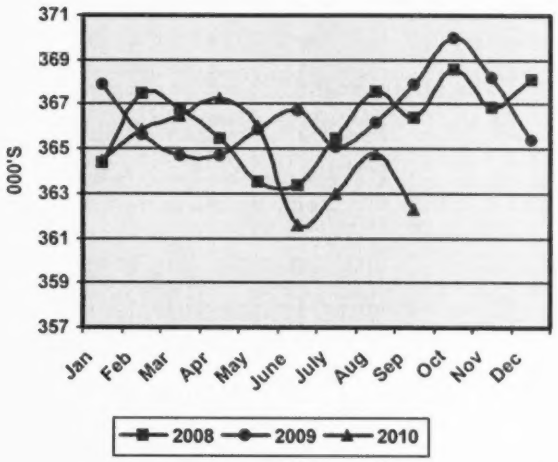
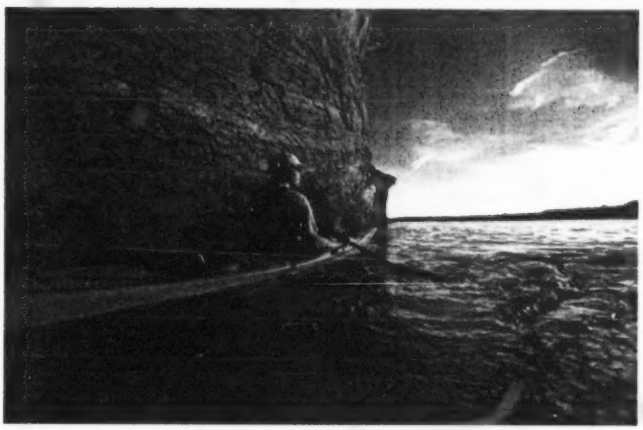
EMPLOYMENT

There were 362,300 people working in September. This was 2,500 less than last month and 5,600 less when compared to the same period last year.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



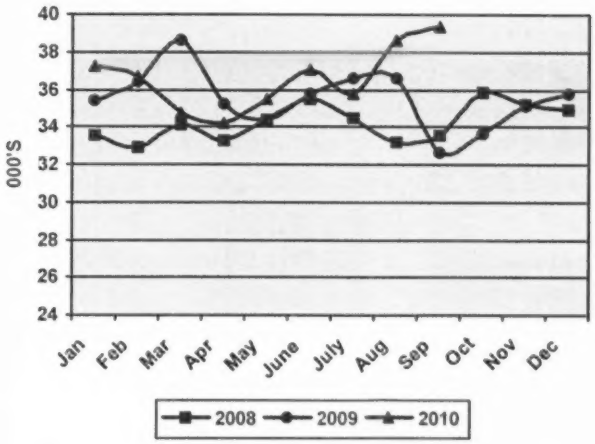
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



UNEMPLOYMENT

There were 39,400 people unemployed and seeking work in September. This is 800 more people than what was recorded last month and is 6,800 more compared to the same period last year.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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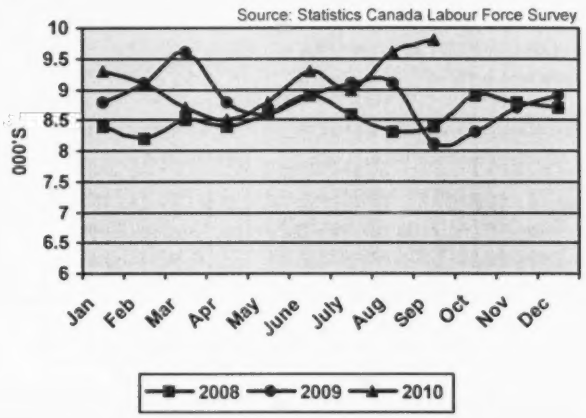
THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

New Brunswick's unemployment rate of 9.8% in September was 0.2 of a percentage point higher than last month and was 1.7 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year .

THE ECONOMIC REGIONS

Statistics Canada reports labour force statistics for the economic regions as three month moving averages of actual (not seasonally adjusted) data.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NEW BRUNSWICK



September'10	Economic Regions				
	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Central	Northwest
Labour Force	75,700	117,000	97,200	75,200	47,100
Employment	65,300	108,600	89,000	70,100	42,500
Unemployment	10,400	8,300	8,200	5,100	4,700
Unemployment Rate	13.7%	7.1%	8.4%	6.8%	10.0%
Participation Rate	56.3%	68.6%	67.2%	70.0%	69.2%

Economic Regions	YTD		September'10		September 09	
	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR
Northeast	61,800	15.8%	65,300	13.7%	66,900	13.8%
Southeast	105,600	7.1%	108,600	7.1%	109,200	7.6%
Southwest	86,300	8.8%	89,000	8.4%	91,600	5.9%
Central	69,900	7.0%	70,100	6.8%	69,800	6.2%
Northwest	39,800	10.1%	42,500	10.0%	41,300	9.4%

On a year-over-year basis (September 2010 compared to September 2009), employment increased in the Northwest (+1,200) and Central (+300) regions while it decreased in the Southwest (-2,600); Northeast (-1,600) and Southeast (-600) economic regions.

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THE INDUSTRY REPORT

Employment growth on a year-over-year basis was strongest in the following sectors*:

Utilities (9.8%) - In September of 2010 there were approximately 4,500 people employed in this sector. There are now 900 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in July of 2008 (the record high for this sector). This is only the second consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than or equal to the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 10 of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 4.0% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (nine months into the year).

Information, Culture and Recreation (7.4%) – In September of 2010 there were approximately 13,100 people employed in this sector. There are 2,000 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in September of 1999 (the record high for this sector). This is the fifteenth month out of the last sixteen that this sector has experienced a year-over-year increase in employment. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis 15 times. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 9.3% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (nine months into the year).

Trade (5.8%) – In September of 2010 there were approximately 56,900 people employed in this sector. There are 4,000 fewer people employed in this sector than in August of 2005 (the record high for this sector). This is the eighth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 9 of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 4.7% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (nine months into the year).

Employment was weaker on a year-over-year basis in the following sectors**:

Agriculture (-24.7%) – In September of 2010 there were approximately 5,500 people employed in this sector. There are 3,300 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in September of 1992 (the record high for this sector). This is the ninth month out of the last ten where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than or tied with the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 15 of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 18.2% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (nine months into the year).

Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing (-13.3%) – In September of 2010 there were approximately 15,700 people employed in this sector. There are 2,700 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in October of 2009 (the record high for this sector). This is the seventh month out of the last eight where this sector has experienced a year-over-year decline in employment. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 11 of

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THE INDUSTRY REPORT (continued)

those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 3.9% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (nine months into the year).

Manufacturing (-10.4%) - In September of 2010 there were approximately 30,000 people employed in this sector. There are 13,600 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in January of 2004 (the record high for this sector). This is the fifth month where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 7 of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 4.0% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (nine months into the year)

** Includes the bottom three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year-over-year) decrease in employment